

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**May 18, 2009**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, May 18, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School.**

**Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan and William Anderson were also in attendance.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on April 7 and 27, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on March 26 and April 27, 2009, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **Reports**

**Sean McGarry reported that the Superintendent Search Committee has had two meetings and reviewed 16 applications. Fourteen applications were received through SchoolSpring, which seems to be a viable and cost effective way to advertise. The search committee has scheduled interviews beginning later this week, and will supply**

**the School Committee with up to three candidates by the beginning of June in hopes of the School Committee being able to interview and appoint a new superintendent at its meeting on June 15.**

**William Padien requested that the School Committee allow him and one other member to meet informally with the co-presidents of the teachers' association to discuss next year's budget prior to any public hearings needed to bring the operating budget in line with what the voters adopted at the financial town meeting. Richard Tretheway agreed to be the other School Committee representative at the meeting tentatively scheduled for noon on Tuesday, May 26.**

**Mrs. Ryan gave the following Principal's report:**

- The kindergarten had a successful "Pennies for Patients" fund raiser. The class will be heading to the Peabody Museum in New Haven for a field trip.**
- The third grade finished its unit on Japan.**
- Three classrooms (grade 4, grade 6, and high school science) are now equipped with active boards, which are great technological tools for our school.**
- The spring concert is scheduled for June 3.**
- The seventh grade students will once again participate in the annual sailing trip where they will study ecology and the whaling industry in New England. This trip is funded by the parents and private donations.**
- Betty Gomes will be taking the students in grades 10 and 11 to a**

**career fair at Narragansett High School tomorrow.**

**•The winners of this year's Save a Watt contest will be announced shortly.**

**Mrs. Ryan gave the following Special Education report:**

**•We are in the midst of IEP season and preparing for the extended school year programming for students requiring services during the summer. We are collaborating with Block Island Maritime Institute and Camp Mohegan to provide unique summer opportunities.**

**•RIDE's site team will return on May 19 and 20 to interview students and faculty, receive a presentation from the Special Education Advisory Committee, and provide a preliminary report.**

**Mrs. Ryan gave the following fiscal report:**

**•We were told that we would receive \$106,000 in state aid, but this amount has been reduced. We will be notified by June 30 if any of the money received needs to be returned to the state.**

**•Districts have been instructed not to pay into the teachers' retirement for the rest of the fiscal year. The state hopes to have some pension reform in place by the end of the fiscal year and it is hoped that the amount by which our state aid has been cut would even out with the pension reform.**

**•We have been notified that we will be receiving \$10,456 in state stabilization funds.**

**•Accufund training took place last week, but remote access is not available yet.**

The standing of accounts as of the end of April 30, 2009, which was handed out this evening was not accepted until committee members had a chance to peruse it and have Nancy Cole present to answer questions. The legal bill for the first quarter of the year in the amount of \$8,028 was received earlier today. Requests have been made to the attorney to have both the April and May bills available by the June 15 meeting.

Mrs. Ryan gave kudos to Nancy Greenaway, Joanne Warfel, and other teachers for their involvement with the oral presentations for the senior projects.

### **Old Business**

A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to approve Policy FBG: Valedictorian and Salutatorian Eligibility as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve Policy HC: Athletic Compensation as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation as written was withdrawn after a lengthy discussion. Dr. Irving, who was not able to attend this evening's meeting made several changes to the wording in hopes of clarifying the policy. This included changing junior varsity to middle grades in the first paragraph, further explaining the academic

eligibility for all students in grades 6-8; and specifying the number of away games permitted in a five-day period. Mr. Tretheway stated that he thought the committee was going to discuss the letter from the teachers' association regarding the concerns about sixth grade students participating in interscholastic sports. Mr. Padien read the letter from the NSTA Co-Presidents dated April 23, 2009 into the record. Kristine Monje stated that historically, the fifth grade students played the fall sport (soccer), the sixth grade students played fall and spring (soccer and baseball/softball), and the seventh grade students were permitted to play all three seasons (soccer, basketball, and baseball/softball). The new policy took the fifth grade students out completely and permits the sixth grade students to play all three seasons. Mrs. Monje argued that the younger students are more at risk academically when involved in winter sports because of the boat schedule which requires students to miss a lot of class time when playing off-island games. Mr. McGarry feels this latest version of the policy, which has been discussed for over a year, is a compromise for all parties. Mr. Tretheway suggested that perhaps the Recreation Department could provide the upper elementary grades with more athletic programs and have the school's interscholastic programs start at grade eight. The Recreation Department would be the feeder program so the students would know how to play the various sports when they begin eighth grade. With the recreation games on the weekends, students would not miss school time. Other committee members argued that they could not dictate what programs the Recreation Department provides. Mr.

**Padien reminded everyone that this policy has been changed four times in four years and can be changed again when necessary. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to post Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation as amended carried with a vote of 3-2 with Shea Butcher and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative.**

### **New Business**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Lisa Robb's request for a maternity leave beginning early September through the end of the first quarter of the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to reopen the 2008-2009 general operating budget carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**At the present time there is a shortfall of \$19,388 in the administration department's consultant/ legal line. Mrs. Ryan suggested that funds be transferred from benefits, dues/subscriptions, and supplies in the administration department; wages/special education director, supplies/food services, principal's budget, and travel in the education department; and fuel oil, rubbish removal, water, and security in the building and maintenance department in order to cover the shortfall.**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to change the 2008-09 budget by reducing the administration department benefits line item to \$100,098; reducing dues/subscriptions to \$4,000; reducing supplies to \$5,108; increasing consultant/legal to \$28,388; reducing the education department wages/special education director to \$39,586;**

reducing supplies/food service to \$100; reducing the principal's budget to \$164; reducing travel to \$14,560; reducing the building and maintenance fuel oil line item to \$50,134; reducing rubbish removal to \$4,849; reducing water to \$4,200; and reducing security to \$2,000 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to close the 2008-2009 budget hearing carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events for the months of May and June were forwarded for School Committee information. The annual School Committee/Senior Class dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, June 11. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2009.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:32 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(1) for a discussion related to job performance carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Open Session**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 10:08 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to extend the contract with the Special Education Director for another year with further discussions to negotiate his contract to be held during the School Committee meeting scheduled for June 15 carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 10:10 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: June 15, 2009**